

Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AGR-05 AGRE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 /069 W

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R 130712Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1956

INFO USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY STAPEI

C O N F I D E N T I A L HONG KONG 10679

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, ECON, CH

SUBJ: PRC GRAIN PRODUCTION - SOYBEANS

1. JAPANESE CONGENOFF TAKAHASHI PASSED US JIST OF
JAPANESE EMBASSY PEKING MESSAGE ON CHINESE AGRICULTURAL MATTERS.
IN A MEETING BETWEEN JAPANESE EMBASSY OFFICIALS AND DEPUTY
DIRECTOR MA LING OF THE FOREIGN AFFAIRS BUREAU OF THE
MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY, MA STATED THAT SINCE
1958 ALL CHINESE GRAIN STATISTICS HAVE INCLUDED SOYBEANS.
IN REPLY TO A DIRECT QUESTION, HE SAID THAT THE 274.9 MMT
FIGURE RELEASED BY YANG LI-KUNG AT THE ROME FAO CONFERENCE
AS CHINESE GRAIN PRODUCTION FOR 1974 INCLUDED SOYBEANS, AS
DID, FOR EXAMPLE, THE 1971 FIGURE OF 246 MMT. HE ALSO SAID
THAT SOYBEAN PRODUCTION " IN RECENT YEARS" HAD BEEN "A
LITTLE MORE THAN 8 MMT."

2. MA STATED THAT THE "GROWTH RATE" FOR GRAIN PRODUCTION IN
1976 IS "EXPECTED" TO BE HIGHER THAN LAST YEAR. TOTAL
GRAIN OUTPUT IS ALSO EXPECTED TO BE "VERY GOOD." SUMMER
HARVESTED CROPS, IN PARTICULAR WINTER WHEAT, HE
CHARACTERIZED AS BEING AT AN ALL-TIME HIGH. THE CONDITION
OF AUTUMN HARVESTED CROPS IS CONSIDERED GOOD SO FAR,
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ALTHOUGH HE NOTED THAT SOME PLACES ARE BEING AFFECTED

BY DROUGHT.

3. COMMENT: IN VIEW OF HIS AUTHORITATIVE POSITION
IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, THE STATEMENT BY MA
SUPPORTS THE CONCLUSION THAT SOYBEANS ARE INCLUDED IN
PRC GRAIN STATISTICS. THE INFORMATION INDICATES A
3.8 PERCENT GROWTH RATE FROM 1971-1974, AND ALSO
SUGGESTS THAT SOYBEAN PRODUCTION HAS BEEN FAIRLY CONSTANT
AT AROUND 8 MMT, WHICH RAISES THE POSSIBILITY THAT OUR
ESTIMATES OF OTHER PARTS OF THE GRAIN COMPONENT MAY NEED
TO BE REVISED.
CROSS

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